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MESSAGE

of

THE HONORABLE ELBERT N. CARVEL

Governor of Delaware

to the

SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

of the

STATE OF DELAWARE

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February 11, 1964

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

MR. PRESIDENT
MR. SPEAKER
MEMBERS OF THE 122ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FELLOW DELAWAREANS:

During the past three years since this Administration was inaugurated on January 17, 1961, we have participated in a joint effort which has encouraged the progress of the forward movement of our beloved State.

During these three short years we have witnessed the drop of our unemployment rate to one of the lowest in the Nation. This rate now stands at less than half of our rate of December 31, 1960.

Personal income in our State for the first eleven months of 1963 is estimated to have increased 8.7% over the same period of 1962, and is about 31% ahead of our average personal income for the period of 1957-1959.

For the fiscal years 1958, 59, 60 and 61, Delaware was operating with a deficit, while during the fiscal years of 1962-63 we have enjoyed a substantial surplus, and surplusses are forecast for the fiscal years ending 1964 and 1965.

Great strides in providing for the material needs of our economy have been accomplished through the authorization of the massive Freeway-Highway Program, the School Construction bill, the New Delaware River Crossing, the Lewes-Cape May Ferry, and the completion of the John F. Kennedy Turnpike.

Highly desirable new industries have located in Delaware and many more are giving the superior advantages of our State their favorable consideration.

You have given the human and social needs of Delaware a generous measure of your attention. This has resulted in the passage of a long overdue

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Public Accommodations Act. The passage of important correctional and rehabilitative legislation has been accomplished in the House, and a joint Legislative Committee has approved a major part of our correctional program which should forecast the final passage of the most encouraging advances of any correctional program in our history.

Welfare programs providing for expanded old age pensions and increased medical care to the indigent aged have been successfully implemented. An addition to the Welfare Home at Smyrna was completed, and comfortable, uncrowded conditions are once more restored to that haven of rest.

In the field of Education we are raising our sights and we are working together to develop more efficient methods of communicating an educational program of excellence to our future citizens. Educational TV, the expanded use of visual aids and the application of computer equipment will play an important part in the increased efficiency in this area.

In the field of Labor we have authorized and put into action an Apprenticeship and Training Council, working under the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This resulted from the recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Training for Employment, and the continuation of expansion of our efforts in this field should help to overcome the maladjustments in the industrial field brought on by automation and increasing industrial efficiency.

The Delaware Commission on Children and Youth is making a broad survey of the cause of drop-outs in our public schools. They are being enthusiastically and ably assisted in this work by the American Association of

University Women and the Delaware Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. This survey will uncover the breadth of the present problem and will encourage the people of our State to seek appropriate solutions. It is important to stress that all drop-outs in Delaware should register with the Employment Security Commission. This agency has many opportunities open for jobs and can be most helpful to this important segment of our population. There are many opportunities for job training being provided from this quarter for young people 17 and over. I am encouraged by this effort by the Commission on Children and Youth and the splendid women who are aiding this Commission in making this critical survey. In turn, this Administration is trying to provide the necessary funds and moral support to help get this job done.

There is a new spirit of cooperation prevailing among the people of our State and this spirit is being reflected by you -- the General Assembly -- by your support of the many constructive measures which your First Regular Session has already passed. This Second Regular Session still has much unfinished work to do, the approval of which will cause Delaware to step up the pace of its forward movement and place us in the vanguard of the knowledgeable progressive states of our Nation.

For several years prior to 1961, while we were operating in the red, a stalemate existed in State government. There was much discussion about how the State should be operated, and valuable time and progress was lost to our people.

Our late beloved President John F. Kennedy challenged our Nation to move forward from dead center, and our State and Nation accepted this

challenge. The Business Week index chart averaged at about an index of 100 during the period of 1957 - 1961. Today it stands at 128 and is trending upward. The Diamond State Telephone business index for Delaware stood at 103 in January of 1961, and today it is 135, with the Delaware outlook the best in many years.

We have often referred to Delaware as the "Economic Sunshine State of the Nation." There is no question but what we are standing on the threshold of the greatest progress in our history. Under the leadership of President Lyndon B. Johnson we are continuing the progress so well planned and begun by President Kennedy. In Delaware it is quite possible that instead of underemployment, we will be witnessing a shortage of personnel throughout our State as the year unfolds.

With this splendid prospect, there is plenty of room for both major parties to cooperate and to claim credit for the progress. That is why I am encouraged by the friendly spirit presently prevailing throughout our Nation, our State and our General Assembly. Opportunities for progress and prosperity are most favorable and encouraging. The people are joining hands to turn these opportunities into accomplishments. So, Delaware -- let us move forward together.

THE BUDGET

Requests for appropriations submitted to the Budget Director amounted to $124,049,000.00 for Fiscal 1965. My recommendations for appropriations in the Budget Appropriation Bill for that year amount to $110,114,000.00.

Provisions for usual Grants-in-Aid Supplemental Appropriations and Automatic Appropriations increase these recommendations to $115,714,000.00. Reversions of appropriations of approximately $2,200,000.00 are anticipated in the next Fiscal Year. If these recommendations are approved by the General Assembly, it is estimated that total disbursements for Fiscal 1965 will amount to $113,514,000.00.

The anticipated revenue for Fiscal 1965 is $110,000,000.00, exclusive of DuPont divestiture funds. Recommended general fund disbursements will thus exceed anticipated revenue by $3,514,000.00 during that period, but with an estimated cash balance of $4,323,000.00 to be carried over on June 30, 1964, into Fiscal 1965, this would result in an estimated cash balance of $809,000.00 on June 30, 1965.

Main areas of budgetary increase: The major portion of the budgetary increase for Fiscal 1965 is a result of automatic statutory allotment provisions, especially for the schools. Additional pupil units, implementation of school employees' salary raises authorized last year, and the new vocational education unit allotment, added approximately $5 million to the required authorization for public education.

Automatic additions were also necessary for state employees' pensions to cover larger payrolls, the added numbers of pensioners, and especially to provide for the full implementation of legislation passed June 1961 which provided that social security benefits are not deducted from State pension payments after July 1, 1964.

A further escalation of approximately $2 million was caused by additional debt service. The rest of the total increase over last year is caused for the most part by a 5% increase in salary allocations for the majority of State employees. This is not a cost of living increase, but is included to help our State agencies be more competitive in securing and retaining competent personnel.

During the First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly, you appropriated over $3 million from surplus funds for School and Highway Capital Construction and Replacement for projects similar to those for which you have previously issued State Bonds. This was a conservative act, but we cannot continue to follow such a policy because of the simple mathematics surrounding the projected condition of our surplus.

Of course, the expanding economy may brighten the outlook for these surplusses considerably, but it would appear in the best interests of our State to provide conservative estimates which could improve, rather than optimistic estimates which could diminish.

REAPPORTIONMENT

Because the matter of reapportionment for the State of Delaware has been heard and is now being considered by the Supreme Court, I shall defer any comment on this question until it has been disposed of by that Judicial Body. Whatever decision is made, Delaware is certain to have a House of Representatives which will be reasonably representative, based upon the population of the various political subdivisions. This is a forward step and

indeed a real victory for the democratic process.

THE DU PONT - GENERAL MOTORS DIVESTITURE REVENUE

During your first session, you authorized funds for the office of the State Tax Commissioner for the purpose of separating, earmarking and investing the revenue derived from the duPont - General Motors divestiture windfall during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963.

This revenue amounted to slightly over $3 million for that period and was promptly invested in short term U.S. Government Bonds by the Budget Commission with the aid of the Farmers Bank of the State of Delaware.

In my message of December 2, 1963, I urged you to adopt a plan involving a Constitutional Amendment, plus other majority legislation which would provide funds from this source for the acquisition and restoration of additional public lands for State and County parks, recreational facilities, historic sites, and for conservation purposes.

Following an expenditure of slightly over $3 million from the fund for these purposes, the balance of these monies would be placed in a Capital Investment Trust Fund created by legislation requiring a 2/3 vote of each House following such authorization by a Constitutional Amendment.

The monies of this Capital Investment Trust Fund would be invested and the annual interest would be used for similar purposes as mentioned above.

Again, I emphasize a paragraph from my December 1963 message, "The enactment of this program would cause this General Assembly to be long remembered for its vision and wisdom by utilizing these 'windfall' funds for the embellishment of our beloved Delaware."

THE CORRECTIONAL PROGRAM

You are continued to be urged to pass the legislation providing for the reform of our correctional institutions. This legislation is the result of the studies made by the Governor's Committee for a State Correctional Program from funds provided by the Delaware Crime Commission. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the outstanding organization in this field, made the study, and the recommendations have the full support of the statewide bipartisan "Three-S" Citizen Committee.

The bills provide for an expanded professional staff to step up the rehabilitative process and programs of probation and parole. A single Family Court with statewide jurisdiction with sufficient professional staff will be instituted.

The adoption of this plan will help us to build a stronger Delaware -- morally, spiritually and physically, save the State substantial sums, and will serve as a living memorial to the vision and wisdom of this 122nd General Assembly.

MENTAL HEALTH

As the result of a broad and penetrating survey made by the American Psychiatric Association, sponsored by the Mental Health Association of Delaware, the Board of Trustees of the State Hospital, and the Governor's Advisory Committee on Mental Health, legislation will be promptly introduced to provide for a Mental Health Department under the leadership of a Mental Health Director and a Mental Health Commission. Individual professional

superintendents would be responsible to the Mental Health Director for the operation of the facilities at the State Hospital, Farnhurst, Governor Bacon Health Center, and the Hospital for the Mentally Retarded at Stockley.

In the field of Mental Health, there have been many highly encouraging developments which indicate great hope for solutions to this grievous human ailment. Our late President John F. Kennedy gave the problems of this field his brilliant leadership, and as a result the Federal government has authorized its support of a cooperative Federal - State crash program to step up research, the construction of improved facilities and development of improved methods to combat this dreaded scourge which strikes one person out of ten of our population sometime during their life.

I urge you to take the prompt, wise action of considering and passing this needed legislation which can help so much in this valiant fight for reason and tranquility.

MENTAL RETARDATION

The Delaware Commission on Children and Youth is about to make a study on the problems of the mentally retarded. The Federal government has authorized $30,000 for such a study, provided we furnish up to an additional $10,000 in funds or services. Appropriate legislation will be introduced to provide the necessary funds and authorization for a successful study.

EDUCATION

1. The Governor's Committee on Educational Television, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, is making encouraging progress. Already, because of their recommendation, you have appropriated $150,000.00 for the purchase of television sets to start our program. Presently, the schools of Delaware can receive one channel broadcasts from TV Stations WHYY and WBOC.

Many of you, in conjunction with the Governor's Committee, have travelled to Hagerstown, Maryland and Columbia, South Carolina, to witness the utilization of closed circuit ETV for regional and state areas. Using one co-axial cable it is possible to broadcast 6 programs consecutively, and it takes little imagination to realize that with 2 co-axial cables the 12 grades of our public schools could be covered from one central broadcasting station such as Dover.

Educational TV holds out the opportunity for the mass production of excellence of educational curricula on a broad, uniform, statewide basis, by master teachers or communicators. These lessons are received over television and are interpreted and supervised by the class-room teachers who, incidentally, receive standard briefing material well in advance of the session. Thus, classroom teachers become better prepared and, as has been demonstrated in well organized broadcasts, the pupil progresses faster and shows improved retention of the information communicated.

One picture is worth 10,000 words. It is my considered opinion that the intelligent use of ETV may well provide the giant leap forward in education so important to our future peace, prosperity, world leadership, and to

the elimination of poverty.

2. The recent passage of the School Bond Issue failed to provide for the customary 1 1/2% for the supervisory and auditing services by the Delaware School Auxiliary. Legislation will be shortly introduced to correct this oversight. It is vital that inspection of construction be provided by the State as a safeguard to our taxpayers in this mammoth $30,000,000.00 school construction program, and I urge your support of a bill to remedy this oversight.

3. I strongly urge the passage of House Bill 236, providing for the establishment of adult evening schools throughout the State. This is one more step to provide opportunities for better-trained, better-qualified citizens who, through this training, will be better prepared to take their rightful place in our complicated, automated economy. It has the full support of the Governor's Committee for Training for Employment.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Delaware is justly proud of the esteem in which our great University is held throughout the Nation and the world. During the past 15 years, our University has expanded in quality and quantity, and we have all observed the recognition which the University constantly receives for the excellence of its curriculum and the capable, well-rounded students which it graduates. It is constantly making plans for the expansion and the up-grading of its programs, and it is highly important that it have your support in its present effort to amend its charter relating to fiscal and budget matters.

Over the years, statutes have accumulated (sometimes without giving a thought to our University) which too often fail to recognize the University's

unique relationship to the State. This has resulted in the University being inadvertently drawn into the complicated fiscal processes of State government where it just does not belong.

This Administration has full confidence in the judgment and integrity of the Board of Trustees of the University and its efficient personnel. It believes that in the best interest of the public, the University should be permitted to follow the course it has heretofore been permitted to pursue, and I urge you to enact the charter amendment which the Board of Trustees is submitting.

This charter amendment will serve to forestall future misunderstandings and to preserve our cordial and successful relationship.

LABOR

Let us enact a state minimum wage law to cover the many workers in our State who are not otherwise covered by the Federal Wage and Hour Law.

WELFARE

House Bill No. 18, now in the Senate, provides for an additional $50.00 assistance to mothers or caretaker relatives of dependent children.

Presently, the average payment per dependent child is $21.90 per month, with no provision for the mother or caretaker relative. This bill would remedy this serious defect. Let us provide this positive attack against extreme poverty and lay the foundation for rehabilitation by promptly passing this needed legislation.

House Bill No. 367 provides a community work and training program for unemployed parents and older children who are receiving Public Assistance. The passage of this bill will greatly expand the relief-work program which is meeting with increased success in parts of the State. Further, it will assist our all-important program of training the illiterate and uneducated to find a place in the highly specialized automated world of today. I urge the prompt passage of this logical law.

House Bill No. 354 permits employers of the Department of Welfare to administer oaths to applicants for public assistance and will save our case workers from the time-wasting action of obtaining acknowledgements from Notaries Public in each case. This is an easy law to pass; it requires no appropriation and it saves the State money by cutting through red tape. Let's pass it.

THE DELAWARE MAGISTRATE SYSTEM

In each of my three Annual Messages I have urged you to enact legislation to revise and reform our present antiquated and outmoded Magistrate System. In recent conversations with the Chief Justice, I have been informed that the Council on the Administration of Justice is about to reconsider the bills which they have been recommending and are planning to appoint a committee to re-draft the present bills which it previously suggested. It is thought that the committee might submit legislation which would be more adaptable to our present judicial operation. I welcome this leadership on the part of the Council and hope that within a reasonable time this year

appropriate legislation will be referred to the Executive Department for its consideration and support.

HIGHWAYS

Because of the extreme delay last year in passing the $45 million Highway Bond Bill, the State has lost ground in two areas. First, the completion of this much-needed program has been delayed for one year. Secondly, during that period of uncertainty the Highway Department lost 23 members of its engineering, design and technical staff. This places the Highway Department in a position of designing a massive highway program with an understaffed design department, during a period when the national and state demand for qualified engineers is at a peak.

In order to assure the maintenance of our present professional staff and encourage the all-important replacements needed to prepare the designs and specifications for the massive $125 million Highway program generated by the passage of the Bond Bill, I urge you to remove the $300 pay increase ceiling from job classifications of this important engineering group.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

It is my intention to address this session of the General Assembly in a few weeks on another matter of extreme importance, the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program and the Annual Capital Budget. With the assistance of the State Planning Office and the Budget Director, I will recommend legislation for your consideration and adoption which will give to our State of Delaware a Capital Budget for the first time. This Capital Budget will

include appropriations to meet the most immediate needs we have for capital facilities and improvements.

The State of Delaware has need for additional office buildings to alleviate crowded and uneconomical conditions being faced by many of our State agencies both in Dover and Wilmington. In New Castle County alone there are 69 State agencies scattered in many offices. We must provide new office space for these agencies in a building in Wilmington which is worthy of the dignity and distinction of the State of Delaware.

At the same time, we must move from talk to action on the restoration of the Old State House here in Dover. In order to restore this historic building, we must provide for the housing of those agencies which are currently using that important structure for offices.

I recommend the immediate passage of a Bond Issue which would provide $600,000 for planning, site acquisition and preliminary architectural design of a State Office Building in Wilmington, and $3,100,000 for planning, architectural design, site preparation and construction of another State Office Building in Dover.

These office buildings are included as a part of the Annual Capital Budget but time is of the essence. The Federal government has given the State a deadline of March 1, 1964, for the passage of this legislation if the General Services Administration is to reconsider its location of a Federal office building at the site recommended by the City of Wilmington. This will rejuvenate the whole Urban Renewal work in that city. It is for this reason that I recommend the passage of this State Office Building legislation in advance of the Capital Budget legislation.

The State Planning Office has undertaken an inventory of State property. Property included in this inventory consists of all property owned in the name of the State of Delaware or one of the State agencies. The purpose of this property inventory is to establish a central store of information on State land and buildings. So that the inventory may be kept current, I intend to issue an Executive Order which will provide for prior recommendations from the State Planning Office on the acquisition and disposition of State property. Legislation and an appropriation may be necessary to determine the extent of some of our public and subaqueous lands.

UNIFORM PERSONNEL POLICIES

Senate Bill No. 148 was drafted as the result of broad studies of uniform personnel policies by a committee of the State Council of Presidents and Executives.

It provides for uniform job classification, uniform vacation and holiday procedures, and would bring order out of our present personnel policy chaos. This is a progressive step toward a merit system and I urge the prompt passage of this bill.

ELECTIONS

1. Increased opportunities should be provided for registration by mobile registration teams operating in the heavily populated areas of the State. Senate Bill No. 273, now in the House, provides for this reform. I urge its prompt passage.

2. All contributions over $100 to and by any political party or political organization should be reported to the State as they were during my first term as Governor of Delaware. The passage of Senate Bill No. 19 will assure this step toward cleaner elections.

3. I again urge the creation of a State Department of Elections, authorized to report official election information to our people.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

1. Legislation preventing the operation of highway vehicles which emit a dangerous amount of noxious gasses into the atmosphere.

2. The passage of legislation providing for a State Fire School.

3. A leasing law authorizing the practice of off-shore leasing of areas for exploration of mineral and oil resources.

4. The prompt passage of Senate Bill No. 42, to establish a Water Resources Commission to develop a program so that our posterity may be assured of adequate water supplies.

5. The passage of a law authorizing an interstate compact on drivers licenses.

6. Legislation in conjunction with Federal Financing for the permanent protection of our valued and cherished ocean shores and beaches.

THE DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO SERVE OUR STATE

On behalf of the people of Delaware, I express warm thanks to the thousands of State employees who devote their lives to the service of the

people of Delaware. We are fortunate to have the help of these dedicated public servants.

There are many hundreds of capable public-spirited citizens who administer the affairs of our State on its various Boards, Departments and Commissions. It is a constant source of inspiration to observe the broad capabilities and enthusiasm which these volunteer (and generally unpaid) State leaders bring to our government.

On behalf of our State, I express to them our grateful thanks for their magnificent contributions to our way of government.

CONCLUSION

Delaware is moving forward. We are facing up to our problems and we are making a determined effort to find the answers to our perplexing questions.

Unemployment is on the wane. New, desirable industry is finding our State to be a good place in which to locate. The spirit of our people is good and we look forward to a future of greater opportunities and accomplishments.

We are endowed with few natural resources, but with great human resources. The most important contribution which our state can make to a successful future is to nurture, encourage and inspire our great human resources, the vibrant, vital and valiant people of our State.

May we, the people of Delaware, continue this forward progress, thankful for the many blessings which God has seen fit to shower upon us, ever seeking more light and understanding, and ever using this knowledge for the welfare and advancement of all of humanity.

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